REMARKS

Pending claims

Assuming entry of this amendment, claims 1-7 are still pending, of which claims 1, 5 and 6 are independent.

Claim Rejections

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 112

The Examiner rejected claims 1-5 for indefiniteness because of the phrase "may be" in claims 1 and 5. Claims 1 and 5 have been amended to recite that the second display width is "is expandable relative to" the first display width. This phrase is both definite and accurate: This characteristic of the invention as defined in claims 1 and 5 is found in Figure 2b and the related description.

### Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. 103

Claims 1-5

The Examiner rejected claims 1-5 under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable "over the applicant's admitted prior art" in view of Microsoft Internet Explorer ("Microsoft IE"). As for the applicants' admitted prior art, the Examiner referred to Figure 1 as well as to pages 2-5 ([0006]-[0017]) of the specification.

In particular, the Examiner stated that the admitted prior art does not teach the second display width being chosen as a function of display widths of the user-dependent choices, such that the second display width may be greater than the first display width, but that Microsoft IE does, and that it would be obvious to combine these two known arrangements to come up with all of the elements of claims 1 and 5.

As support for the assertion that Microsoft IE provides for a second display width that is greater than the first, the Examiner enclosed a screen shot of one page of the USPTO's web site, in which a pop-up window appears below the "Address" entry field at the left side of the Address Bar. This *history* pop-up window shows three options and the window is just wide enough to show the widest option, namely,

http://www.uspto.gov/main/trademarks.htm   This width is fortuitous, not the result of any automated sizing feature in Microsoft IE.

Screen shots 1-9 (cropped and enlarged so as to better show the relevant portions) below are taken from the USPTO's web site as well, and, by creating an address history, are similar to what the Examiner copied. As the following Screen shot 1 shows, at the bottom right corner of the history pop-up window is a resizing tab:
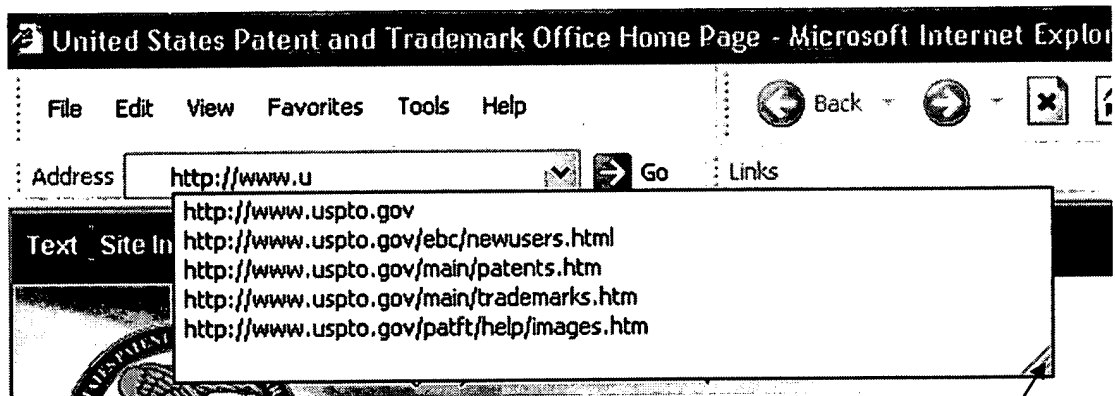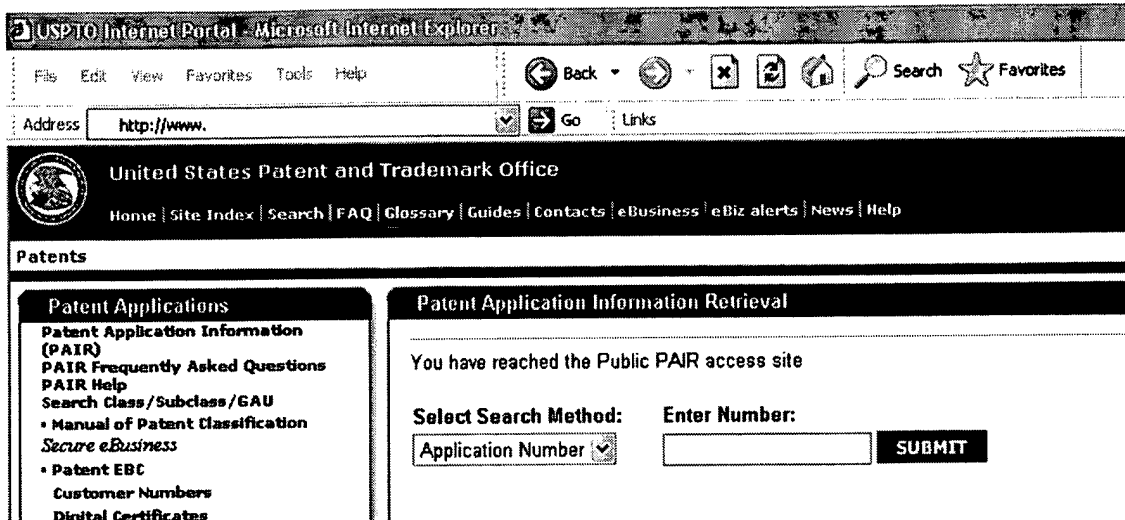

Screen shot 1

Resizing tab

By clicking on this tab and holding down the left button of a normally configured mouse, one can resize the history pop-up window both vertically and horizontally.

The asserted analog to the applicants' claimed graphical input device is the address field, that is, the data entry field into which one types web addresses. Given a blank entry field, Screen shot 2 shows what happens when one begins to type the USPTO's main web address, that is, when one has typed only "http://www.":
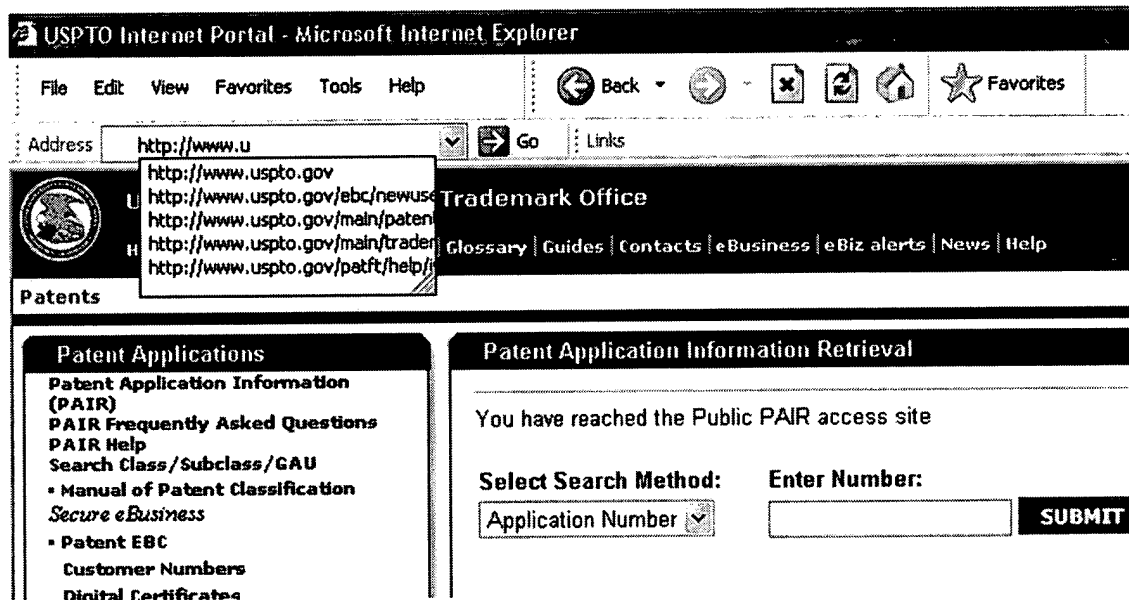
Screen shot 2

Essentially, *nothing* has happened, that is, even though the user is using the graphical input device, no history pop-up menu listing options is activated at all. This is because "http://www." does not provide Microsoft IE with enough information to determine which history entries should be displayed.

Screen shot 3 illustrates what happens when the user then types the "u" of "uspto":
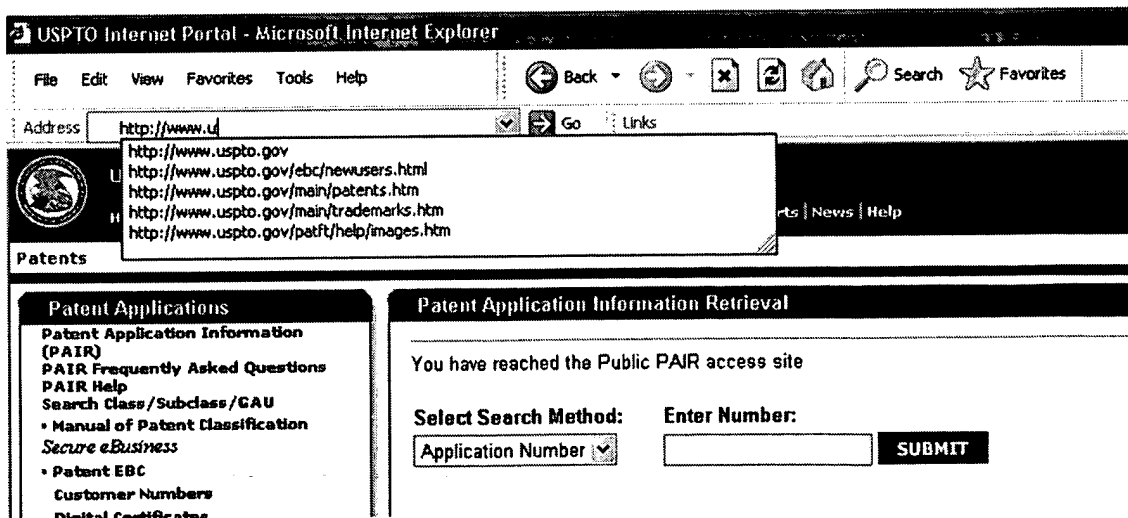
Screen shot 3

Here, there is enough information for Microsoft IE to build a history from, in this case, five earlier visited USPTO pages, including the three the Examiner showed in the Office action. In Screen shot 3, the history pop-up window is much wider than the widest entry because the user maneuvered the resizing tab to make it look that way during the most recent resizing. Note that if no resizing has ever been done, then Microsoft IE simply creates a history pop-up window whose right edge is aligned with the right edge of the address entry field, as Screen shot 4 shows:
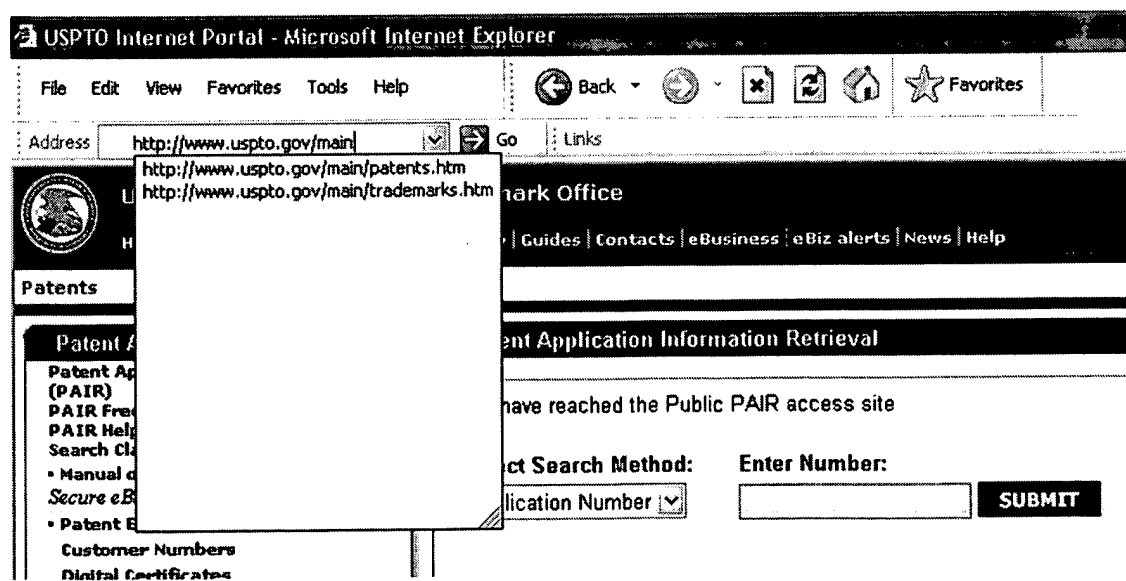

Screen shot 4

As Screen shot 5 shows, it is just as possible using Microsoft IE for the pop-up window to be narrower than the data entry field it is supposed to list options for, and even too narrow to see just what the options are:
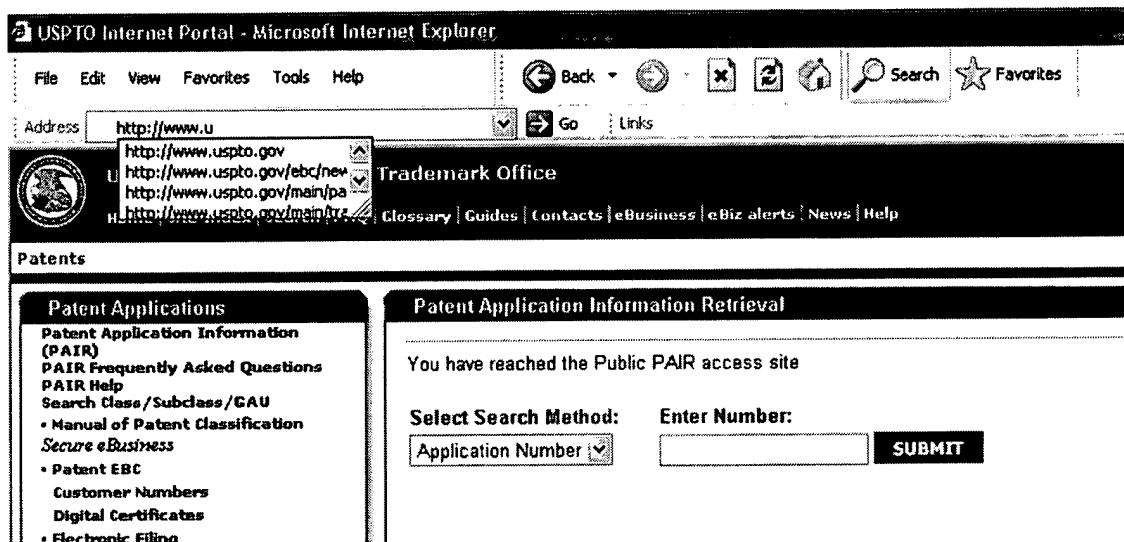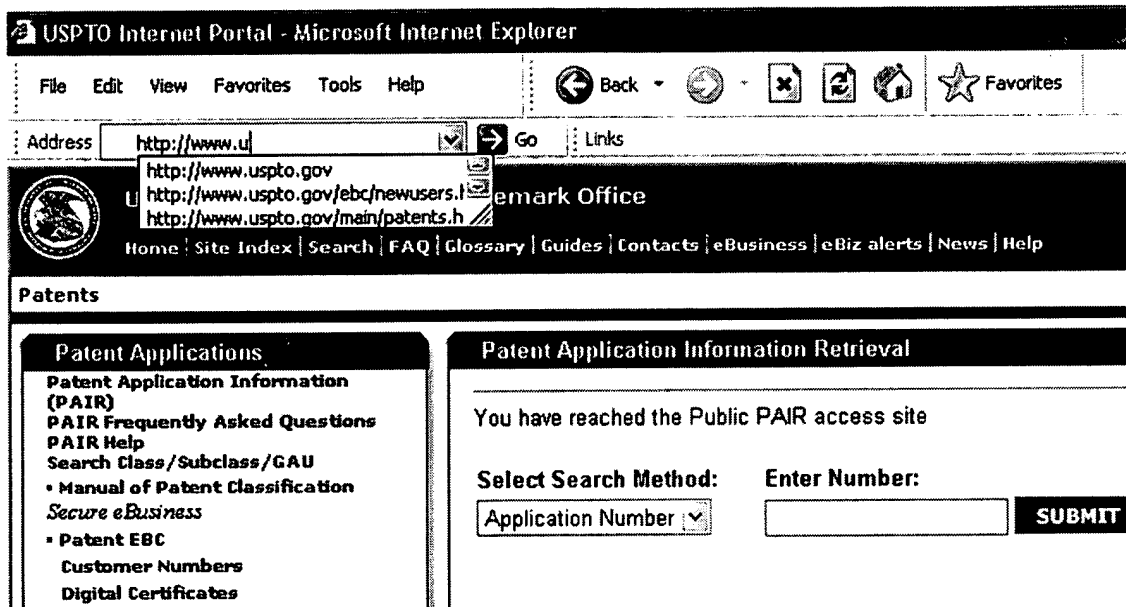

Screen shot 5

In Screen shot 6, the history pop-up window appears to be just the right width to accommodate the longest entry (after entry of the address http://www.uspto.gov/main/), but the pop-up window is far too tall, obscuring page information needlessly.
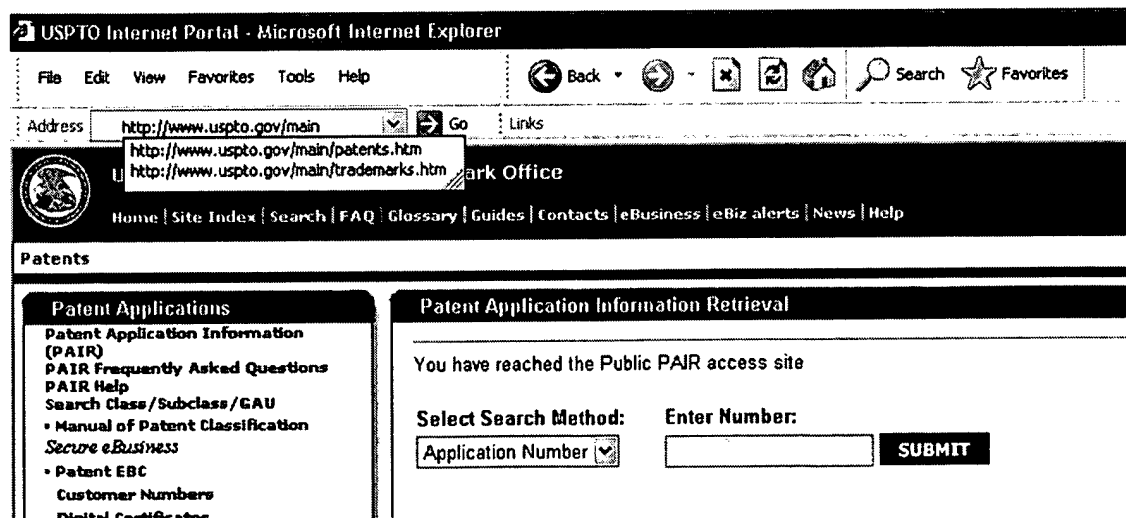

Screen shot 6

In contrast to Screen shot 6, in Screen shot 7, the history pop-up window is not tall enough even to show the user all the choices:
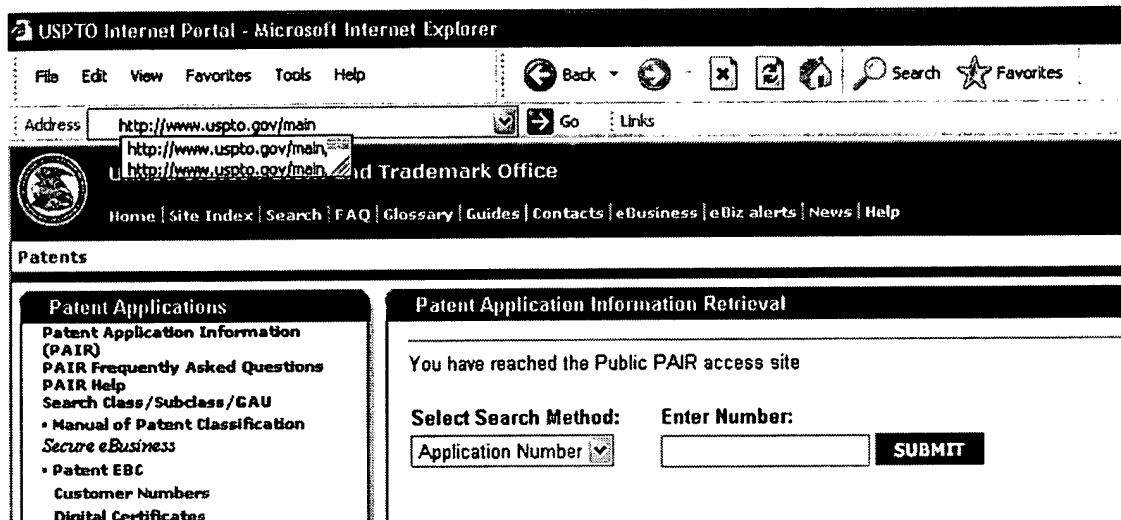

Screen shot 7

In Screen shot 8, the history pop-up window appears to be the same as what the invention would provide, that is, just right in both height and without needless blank vertical space:

Screen shot 8

As Screen shot 9 illustrates, however, the "just right" sizing of Screen shot 8 is either pure luck, or is because the user chose to size the window to see the entries:

Screen shot 9

Furthermore, as Screen shot 9 illustrates, a poor sizing choice can make the pop-up window completely useless by cutting off all the text to the right of "…/main/".

In short, even if one were to say that Microsoft IE allows for a pop-up window of a different width than that of the data entry field it is associated with, then it is still true that the width of the pop-up window is unrelated to the character widths of the choices to be presented to the user. Rather, the Microsoft IE prior art the Examiner cited relies wholly on user manipulation, or luck. In short, the prior art cited by the Examiner illustrates the **problem** of existing html-based input screens, not the **solution** that the applicants' invention provides.

In contrast, claims 1 and 5 have been amended such that they now contain the limitation:

> **automatically** choosing the second display width **as a function of the display widths of the user-dependent choices**, such that the second display width is expandable relative to the first display width

As illustrated and explained above, Microsoft IE requires **manual** adjustment of the second display width, which is never chosen automatically as a function of the

display widths of the user-dependent choices, but rather simply according to user preference.

The various Screen shots of the Examiner's cited prior art also illustrate the benefits of the invention: Because the width of the list (preferably displayed as a pop-up) of user choices takes into account the display widths of the choices to be displayed in the list, the displayed list will never be too narrow (truncating entries), or too wide (needlessly obscuring other portions of the display), and all this is accomplished without the need for use intervention. Neither the prior art discussed in the applicants' specification nor the cited Microsoft IE prior art has these advantages. Consequently, neither would a hypothetical combination. Accordingly, the applicants respectfully assert that claims 1 and 5 (as well as dependent claims 2-4, which simply further narrow claim 1) should now be allowable over the cited prior art.

Claims 6 and 7

The Examiner rejected claims 6 and 7 under 35 U.S.C 103(a) as being unpatentable "over the applicant's admitted prior art" in view of Microsoft Outlook and, with respect to claim 7, also in view of Official Notice. Explorer ("Microsoft IE"). As for the applicants' admitted prior art, the Examiner referred to Figure 1 as well as to pages 2-3 ([0007]-[0009] and page 8, [0025]) of the specification.

Claim 6 relates to the feature of the invention that enables rapid and intuitive navigation of pull-down menus using multiple or chained key press events. In summary, the Examiner asserts that a combination of Microsoft Outlook with the applicants' admitted prior art would yield the invention defined in claims 6 and 7.

Microsoft Outlook, as well as other known programs such as Intuit's QuickBooks, allow for chained key press events, but only in the context of stand-alone applications: Both Outlook and QuickBooks are loaded into a user's computer, which then provides all the functionality of these applications. What is *not* possible given the prior art, however, is to enjoy the same functionality in a browser that operates using existing mark-up languages such as HTML.

The current state of the art is such that, in order to provide the functionality of the invention as defined in claims 6 and 7, every user who wishes to have the convenience

of multiple or chained key press events would have to have his browser specifically modified to make this possible. This is because browsers are limited by the semantics of the mark-up language they execute. Thus, unless HTML itself were changed, and every HTML browser were also reprogrammed to recognize this change, then browsers such as Microsoft Internet Explorer would not enable multiple or chained key press events for input selection from a pull-down menu.

The applicants' invention takes a different approach: Given the limitations of existing browsers and mark-up languages, the invention enables the functionality of chained key press events for input selection from a pull-down menu even on existing computers running commodity browsers. It does this by "embedding a non-HTML script within the HTML routine." Not only does this make possible a convenient input method currently not possible in browsers, but it also does so transparently: The user will be unaware that the browser is not simply running standard HTML, yet he will be able to benefit from a convenient input method that is not possible according to the HTML standard.

The applicants agree with the Examiners characterization that the chained key press entry method as defined in claim 6 "would allow the users to locate an item within a set of items faster." As to obviousness of the invention's solution, however, note that a large percentage of the world's desktop computers run both Microsoft Outlook and Microsoft Internet Explorer. Given the admitted benefit of the functionality provided by the invention in a browser environment, the applicants point out that Microsoft Corporation, which develops both Outlook and Internet Explorer, would have incorporated an advantageous feature from Outlook into Internet Explorer if to do so were obvious.

As for claim 7, the Examiner wrote:

It would have been obvious to an artisan at the time of the invention to apply the teaching of searching the user-dependent choices beginning to right of a delimiting character in the modified applicant's admitted prior art since it would allow a software designer to direct the users to search only the way the designer wants, which in this case is only beginning to right of a delimiting character.

The purpose of the extra feature of the invention defined in claim 7 is not to force users to follow some search rule set by the designer, but to provide a convenience to the user. As paragraph [0066] points out:

> There is no theoretical limit to the number of delimiters that might be included. One could imagine, for example, that the full internal definition of the "Upgrading" selection might be "Field Tech:Customer Site:CODE 04:Upgrading". Selecting this member from the selection list 520 using keyboard entries alone would be impractical or impossible using conventional browser-based technology, but is made fast, easy, and convenient using this aspect of the invention.

Again, given benefit to users of rapidly and efficiently selecting input entries that are organized at perhaps many levels (each with a delimiter), one would expect browsers – and browser manufacturers such as Microsoft – to have provided this feature. They haven't. This is, again, in part because this form sub-field entry selection is not enabled in HTML. To enable it requires something else, namely, the applicants' invention.

Conclusion

Claims 1 and 5 have been amended to recite a feature of the invention that even the examiner states is advantageous, yet is not found in the cited prior art. As such, claims 1 and 5, as well as claims 2-4, which depend from claim 1, should now be allowable.

Similarly, claims 6 and 7 define aspects of the invention that are not possible in existing browsers, aspects that provide greater ease of use for those selecting entries from on-screen pull-down lists. Claims 6 and 7 should therefore also be allowable.

Change of Attorney Name

Please note the enclosed letter concerning the attorney's proper last name "Pearce" instead of "Slusher."

Date: 16 December 2004

Respectfully submitted,

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